

# THE INDEPENDENT

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## ELIZABETH CITY MAN HELPED PICK HARDING

Col. Meekins Was Right There On The Ground  
Floor at The Convention in Chicago  
Last Week

If the Republicans score a victory in the national election in November, one Elizabeth City man will be in on the ground floor of the new administration. That man is Col. Isaac M. Meekins, an original Harding man. Col. Meekins is not only an original Harding man, but he was one of a little coterie who met in New York early last winter and picked the nominee for last week's convention. The choice of that New York conference was Warren G. Harding, the Senator from Ohio.

But they couldn't go before the country with Harding. There was too much Johnson and too much Wood and a certain bothersome Hoover possibility. To pave the way for Harding it was necessary to trot out some one to cut down General Wood's following. And so Governor Lowden of Illinois was put on Wood's trail. The Lowden boom worked too well. Lowden proved even more popular than was anticipated and his boom hadn't been booming very long when Lowden declared that he had a look in and asked permission to go to it. The permission was granted, but with the understanding that if he couldn't carry enough delegates to the convention to get the nomination, he was to throw his strength to Harding.

Governor Lowden was so sure of his chances that he spent close to a half million dollars of his own money. Having been close to the meat packing interests may account for his having had so much money to spend. But he fell down by buying the wrong sort of delegates. He bought a pair from Missouri who confessed on the eve of the convention that they had put \$2,500 a piece, of Lowden's money, in the bank to their credit, not knowing what else the money from Lowden was for. That killed Lowden and got him out of the way of that quiet little Harding boom.

The daily press reports showed how the game was played on the floor of the convention, how Lowden was played against Wood while the Harding forces lined up until from a signal from Boise Penrose the Lowden delegates were released to Harding. The Old Guard carried the convention the way it had planned, after all the old stereotyped convention stuff had been played to the galleries.

Col. Meekins is back from the Chicago convention, a highly elated citizen. His ideal candidate for presidency has always been of the moss-back, stand-patter type. Next to Harding his choice was Taft. The Colonel's idea is that only a dead one is safe, since live ones usually have vigorous enemies to contend with in a contest.

There is another Elizabeth City man back from the convention this week who doesn't seem so elated. That man is C. Royden Pugh, National Committeeman Marchand's understudy in this district. When the District Republicans refused to send Pugh to the National Convention, Marchand rigged up a scheme by which he hoped to make a place for Pugh. He named Pugh as alternate with E. Carl Duncan, Mr. Duncan being in a hospital and not likely to attend the convention. But Duncan upset their plans. He did go to the convention and insisted on naming his own proxy from day to day while the convention was in session. That left Mr. Pugh out of it.

### HERE'S A DRIVE THAT IS INDEED DIFFERENT

Here then is another drive, a drive for \$5,000 to enable THE INDEPENDENT to finance a building project which will mean even a bigger, better and more useful newspaper for Elizabeth City and northeastern North Carolina. But this drive is different. You have given to drive after drive without knowing exactly where your money went or what for. You will never live long enough to see a lot of it come back. This drive gives you your money back with better than 8 per cent interest.

Send THE INDEPENDENT your check for ten dollars and THE INDEPENDENT will send you a receipt for a ten years subscription. Think of it. This newspaper obligates to send you \$20 worth of paper for \$10, making the paper cost you only \$1.00 a year.

500 ten year subscriptions to this newspaper at \$10 a year are now offered to so many INDEPENDENT subscribers. Won't you be one of the 500? Join that 500 Club today.

### IS DELIGHTED WITH OUR NEW BRICK ROAD

President of Westport Paving Brick Co.  
Calls It Cheapest Road Job in  
U. S. A.

John W. Hall, president of the Westport Paving Brick Co., who are furnishing the brick used in the construction of roads in this county, was in Elizabeth City yesterday. Mr. Hall expressed himself as genuinely well pleased with the road so far constructed. He says Pasquotank is getting the cheapest road construction in the United States today and getting a type of construction that will last for years and years. "We are particularly interested in the Pasquotank county job," says Mr. Hall, "because when completed it will be the longest stretch of brick road between Delaware and Florida. That road is going to be a big advertisement for the paving brick industry, particularly our Westport Paving Brick."

### A SOLDIER'S COMMENT ON MR. SMALL'S DEFEAT

Says Soldiers Beat Him and Will Take  
The Scalps of Others

The defeat of Hon. John H. Small, First Congressional District North Carolina wasn't any surprise, to anyone who has followed Mr. Small's stand on the soldier relief bill.

Your city sent Mr. Small a petition requesting him to use his influence in behalf of it but he refused to support the wishes of his constituents and worked in behalf of big interests.

The war contractors, and others that have made millions out of the war are spreading propaganda through the newspapers, that the bill passed by Congress, will bankrupt the Government, but we could have gone on for two more years with them fattening their coffers with more each month than it will take for the adjusted compensation proposed by Congress.

There will be a few more surprises before the elections are over this Fall—or after the elections are over.

The soldier vote is going to be a big factor in this year's elections. Its going to be a silent vote and no one is going to know before hand what its going to be.

Deep down in the hearts of every soldier there is a feeling of resentment for the conditions that exists and that have existed.

The ex-service men are doing some thinking if they are not doing much talking. I have covered most of the First Congressional District of North Carolina and I know the feeling of the ex-service men about as well as most any one else, being one myself. I always try to learn the feeling of others, and have found them almost of the same feeling, whenever they would express their opinions. The defeat of John H. Small wasn't any surprise, and if he had an opponent with more progressive ideas, his defeat would have been even more overwhelming.

Yours truly,  
L. S. BASNIGHT.

### COMPARATIVE CROP VALUES

The annual bulletin for the Crop Reporting Service which has recently been issued shows that North Carolina wheat brought a return of \$19.00 per acre. Rye was \$21.00; oats \$25.00; corn \$42.00; cotton \$118.00; sweet potatoes \$130.00; and tobacco worth an average of \$305 per acre to the farmer. Do you blame him for decreasing his grains and increasing the cotton and tobacco? Wheat occupies nine per cent of the crop area of the state and returns to the farmer 2.3 per cent of the total crop value. Tobacco has 6.2 per cent of the crop and made last year 25 per cent of the state's crop value. Can you blame the planter for doing what seems but fair to him?

## BEST FARMER IN CAMDEN COUNTY

Being a Little Journey to the  
Farm of Pat Stevens of  
Camden



P. W. STEVENS.  
By D. HOWARD TILLITT

This then is a story about the best farm and the best farmer in Camden County. P. W. Stevens of Camden County is setting a pace for the farmers in this section of the Old North State. Eighteen years ago Pat Stevens was a retail grocer in Elizabeth City and he had one of the best groceries in the town. His health failed him and he was advised to give up the sedentary habits of the merchant and seek restored health in open air work back on the farm.

"Right then," says Mr. Stevens, "I decided that if back to the farm I must go, I wouldn't go back to farming as I had known it all my life. I determined to be the best farmer in Camden County and I shall not die contented unless I am the best farmer in Camden County."

I was on his farm on last Saturday and in a modest sort of way, he showed and told me what he is doing. It is my impression that he has reached the point now where he is the best farmer in my county. He is not making the most money farming of any other; but his methods are the best; and his farm—Oak Grove Stock Farm—is destined soon to be known throughout this section as a model farm.

And Doesn't Own a Car  
I said: "Mr. Stevens, have you no desire for an automobile?" he said: "No. There are so many things I need so much worse than I need an automobile that I do not even desire one. I shall buy one when I reach the point where I have all the things I need on my farm and can well afford one." In this connection let me say, that while Mr. Stevens does not ride in an automobile on Sunday and a great part of the time on week days, he does ride on his improved farming implements; and when he drives in the field he has ahead of him a pair of mules which are none better in Camden County; he is on some sort of a farming implement of which there is none better to be had; and he sits and rides as a hero because he has mastered his vocation. I saw his farming implements, and to name them would make a list too long for good reading.

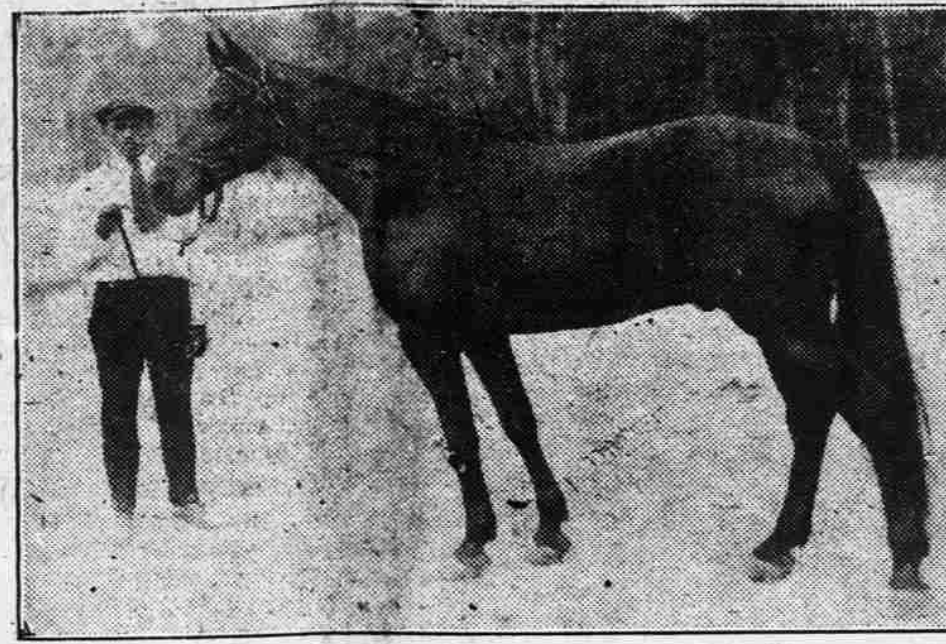
Boll Weevils Won't Get Him  
There is not a stalk of cotton on his farm of sixty five acres; nor is there more than enough Irish potatoes for his family use. Corn, soy beans; oats, barley, vetch, crimson clover, and wheat constitute his crops. He has four acres in wheat which he says will furnish him and his son in law all the flour they need. He showed me four acres of land which is now on young corn. Prior to planting this corn it was in crimson clover and oats and on it he grazed last fall and this spring thirty head of hogs; thirty head of sheep and several calves. He told me that he began grazing and that it was giving him good grazing in February and that he grazed on it until the last of May and now expects to get from that four acres over one hundred and fifty bushels of corn. I said: "Mr. Stevens, I did not think that crimson clover would grow here." He replied: "It won't unless you inoculate it. I sent to the State Department of Agriculture and got that inoculation. To plant that four acres cost me about fourteen dollars."

He now has another four acres which he planted in the fall in oats and barley vetch. He had this cut and shocked. From this four acres he has over six tons of hay which is worth between forty and fifty dollars per ton and on this same land, without any fertilizer, he expects to grow from 140 to 160 bushels of corn.

He Uses Legumes  
He has eighteen acres in oats which he is going to cut in a few days and either sell the oats and straw for feed or thrash the oats and sell. Behind this crop he is going to plant four acres in alfalfa; five acres in crimson and bur clover; four acres in soy bean hay and the remainder in soy beans for seed. Every acre he has in corn will be sown with soy beans of one bushel to the acre. He has his farm cut off in such a way that early in the fall he will close in a piece and turn his hogs in for grazing—a great many times not even gathering the corn.

When he took over this farm seven years ago, it would not bring a barrel and a half to the acre, and now he gets from seven to eight and even nine barrels to the acre. I asked him how he did it; and he replied that every year (Continued on Page 7)

## A Fast Entry For July Races



BERT WILKES, JR., the fast pacer owned by T. S. White of Hertford and now in training at the new fair grounds at Elizabeth City is said to be the fastest piece of horse flesh in northeastern North Carolina. He will be entered in the races to be held here on July 5 and 6, his first appearance on the local track. This horse raced in Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York last season and has a record of 2:12 1-4. Photo by Leon Sklar.

### 33 DEPENDENT COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

Gates, Currituck, Dare and Hyde in  
This Section, Fall Under That  
Head

There are 33 dependent counties in North Carolina and four of them are in the First Congressional District. A dependent county is a county that draws more money out of the state treasury for Confederate pensions and public school funds than they pay into the state treasury for state support. Sixty seven counties in the state paid in more than they drew out and carried the deficit of the delinquent thirty three. The four dependent counties in this district are the counties of Gates, Currituck, Dare and Hyde.

Counties fall into the dependent class for one or several of five reasons, according to the University of North Carolina News Letter. 1. poverty. 2. When properties are listed for taxes at little or nothing. 3. Unwillingness to levy local taxes for better schools. 4. When birth rates are excessive, making school attendance phenomenally large. 5. When Confederate pensioners are numerous.

Any one of these causes will edge a county toward dependency; two or more of them in combination throw the county upon the charity of the state; all of them together mean large state subsidies. And the results are amazing.

### TERRITORY OPEN FOR TWO GOOD AUTOMOBILE AGENCIES

The Oak City Motor Co., of Raleigh, N. C. announces elsewhere in this newspaper to-day, that this territory is now open for the agency of the Huffman Six and Moore 30 motor cars. The territory probably will have little trouble in disposing of the territory since the demand for all classes of automobiles in this section this summer threatens to far exceed the supply. Many automobile dealers are sold months ahead. Miles Jennings remarks that there really should be a curtailment of sales until Elizabeth City has cut several new streets for parking purposes.

### NORTH CAROLINA LEADS THE COUNTRY IN BIRTHS

North Carolina leads the country in birth-rate, baby carriages, cradles and pacifiers. The birth rate of the state in 1917 was 31.8 per 1000. In Yancey county, N. C., the birth rate was 44.4 per 1000, or the highest in the world.

### TOUCHED OFF LEAKING GAS MAIN WITH LIGHTED MATCH

A two inch main of the Gas Company Glade St. sprung a leak Sunday night. Some inquisitive person struck a match to look for the leak and the neighborhood was treated to a free fireworks display for several minutes, the gas lighting and shooting flames many feet into the air. The fire department had to be called out to quench the flames.

### FRUIT GOOD

The fruit outlook is extra good this year and it will be the opportune time to can large quantities for future use. The grower who pruned, sprayed and thinned his fruit this year is the one who will have profited most. The soft rot on peaches is rather prevalent on overloaded trees.

### Hathaway Says

If you wear glasses, have your eyes and glasses both examined from time to time, and go to the place where you can afford to pay a reasonable price for real professional work. Remember your eyes are your bread-winners. Take care of them.

You have your teeth examined twice a year. Why not your eyes? They are more important.

Dr. J. D. Hathaway  
Optometrist  
Phone 999 Bradford Bldg.

### FLIES AND RATS INFEST CITY'S MARKET HOUSE

Something Wrong About That Market  
That Ought to be Cleaned Up

A plague of rats and flies has descended upon Elizabeth City's market building and the fresh meat dealers in that building are raving over their troubles. The market is full of flies and the butchers declare they can't get them out. Bert Davis, one of the occupants, says: "When I had a little shop all by myself I could corner all the flies in it and kill them or drive them out; but this place is so large big you can't run a fly down in it. The same way with rats."

There is something wrong with that market house or something wrong in the vicinity that should claim the immediate attention of the City Health Officer. Flies breed only in filth and it takes a week or ten days for a fly to hatch. The butchers swear they don't permit the accumulation of scraps and filth long enough to give a fly a chance to breed. If the butchers are innocent, then there must be unsanitary stables in the immediate vicinity and those stables should be looked after. If something isn't done, Elizabeth City folk will eat a lot of fly-blown meat this summer.

### TO BEGIN WORK ON NEW BANK QUARTERS

S. R. Siff Co. Will Make Room For Savings Bank & Trust Co. on June 28th

The remodeling of the building for the new quarters of the Savings Bank & Trust Co., corner of Main and Poinexter streets, will begin Monday, June 28. Part of the material for the work, including the electric elevator equipment, are already on the ground.

The S. R. Siff Co., who now occupy the entire building, will have a part of the first floor on Poinexter St. when the remodeling is completed. The S. R. Siff Co. will also occupy the second floor of the building. The bank will take more than half the first floor for its new quarters, including the entire Main Street frontage. The bank will also utilize part of the third floor for its stock room, etc.

It is planned to so carry on the work of remodeling as to inconvenience the S. R. Siff Co. as little as possible. The part to be occupied by this concern will be remodeled first and they will occupy the space to be used by the bank until their store room is ready for them. The S. R. Siff Co. continues their cut price sale preparatory to making room for the changes.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Pidgeon, of Wadesville, Va., a field worker for the National Woman's Party, was in Elizabeth City this week in the interest of the suffrage movement. Just what she accomplished here could not be learned.

### THEATRICAL NEWS (By The Press Agent)

The program for the week of Monday, June 21, is a delight for Alkrama patrons in the way of variety, supplying as it does all of the moving picture needs of every class, whether of the country or city. In the first place the hours of screening have been so arranged that country dwellers can see a show and go home just when they elects—3:30 to 10:30 P. M. Then his comfort has been studied in the way of ventilation, the big ventilating fans at the rear of the theatre constantly pulling an ever changing current of air thru the house. The big electric fans on the side will attend to your breeze bath.

The always welcome Fox News is a special feature on Monday and Thursday. What you read in your paper in the way of world happenings is placed before your eyes in this theatre thru the Fox News. If the lighter side of life appeals to you just bear in mind that every dramatic offering is supported by one or two comedies, and the two serials now running have hundreds of followers who wait impatiently for Friday and Saturday to roll around.

If you will scan next week's program you will surely run across the subject of some book that you have always wanted to read, but have put it off because it would take two or three days or a week to read it and attend to your work too, whereas you are enabled in an hours time to see your favorite book or character in the complete story, elaborately dressed and staged, here at the Alkrama. See complete week's program in this issue.

## 100 CARS OF POTATOES SHIPPED IN ONE DAY

Northeastern North Carolina Growers Cleaning  
Up Millions—Rail Road Men Working  
Day and Night

### A PETITION FOR DRAINAGE DIST.

Newland Tax Payers Moving For  
Road Between Pasquotank  
and Gates

A petition for a drainage district to be known as Pasquotank Drainage District No. 1 was filed by 132 citizens of Newland Township with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Pasquotank County this week. Summonses for those in the district not signing the petition are now in the hands of the sheriff and they must appear in Court Monday, July 6 and show cause, if any, why the proposed drainage district should not be created according to the North Carolina Drainage Laws.

The proposed drainage district embraces about 6,000 acres of inundated lands in the Tadmor section of Pasquotank county, including the swamp thru which it is proposed to build a road connecting the highway system of Pasquotank with the State Highway system via Gates county. A few weeks ago Chairman Frank Page of the State Highway Commission declared that the state would build a dirt road thru the swamp between Tadmor in Pasquotank and Acorn Hill in Gates, provided the tax payers of that section would organize a drainage district and construct a canal from the new road to Pasquotank river. This provision is made because the state will have to dig a canal thru the swamp to provide a foundation and drainage for the proposed swamp road. But this drainage would be inadequate unless the drainage canal was carried out to the river. Newland folk have taken Mr. Page at his word and will provide the necessary drainage. Incidentally they will reclaim thousands of acres of swamp lands for which there will be a lively demand with the coming of good roads.

The petition for Pasquotank Drainage District No. 1 is signed by 132 citizen tax payers of Newland and carries the names of all except possibly a dozen white residents of the district. The petitioners represent an overwhelming majority of residents of the district and an overwhelming majority of the acreage involved.

The feasibility of this drainage project has already been assured by competent engineers who have found that the swamp lands to be drained are in some cases two feet higher than reclaimed lands in the same neighborhood and the drainage area has a fall of a foot a mile to tidewater.

W. L. Cohoon is the attorney for the petitioners and was in fact the progenitor of the project.

The project is of unusual importance to Elizabeth City because it means a definite and substantial move in the direction of linking Gates County to the County of Pasquotank, meaning new trade and social relations of vast value to both counties.

### ELIZABETH CITY MAN LED FIGHT ON COLOR

Efforts to put a Negro equality plank in the platform adopted by the Republicans at their national convention in Chicago last week were blocked by the southern delegates and the most outspoken leader of these southern delegates was Col. Isaac M. Meekins of Elizabeth City.

Col. Meekins declared that if the Republican party went on record in favor of equal political rights for the Negro, North Carolina would go Democratic by 100,000 majority in the coming election. He declared that the only hope of breaking the solid south lies in an all white Republican party. And in a speech to the southern delegates at the convention he declared: "I have gone thru this Negro business once and I don't propose to go through it again."

Col. Meekins anticipated the fight over the Negro issue in the national convention and told friends in Elizabeth City, before leaving for the convention, that if the Negro was again saddled upon the party he was done with it.

The rejection of a Negro plank does not mean however that the Republican politicians in the south will neglect the Negro vote or neglect to carry favor with the Negro. There are lots of them like C. H. Fugh, of Elizabeth City, who will not make any stand for the political freedom of the Negro, but who will use campaign funds to "round up the Negro vote and poll it if necessary."

### SALE CONTINUES

The Spencer Co., Elizabeth City's new men's wear store, announces a continuation of its cut price sale of men's clothing and furnishings. The flat reduction of 20 per cent will be in force another week.

The biggest day's shipment of Irish potatoes in the entire history of this section moved from the Norfolk Southern freight station here Thursday, a total of more than 100 carloads, representing 20,000 to 25,000 barrels of potatoes worth at present market quotations more than a quarter of a million dollars. The week's shipments of potatoes will aggregate 400 carloads, or 80,000 barrels, by the sale of which Northeastern North Carolina will be richer by nearly a million dollars. Then, too, it must be remembered that only a fraction of the potato crop of this section passes thru Elizabeth City, similar heavy shipments going out from Edenton, Columbia, Belhaven and Washington, while every siding along the Norfolk Southern in Northeastern Carolina is serving to swell the unprecedented movement of potatoes to Northern and Western markets.

The Norfolk Southern freight station at Elizabeth City presents now a scene of hectic daily bustle, with potatoes by thousands of barrels coming in on boats, motor trucks, and farm wagons. "A force of 75 men and boys is working day and night to keep up with the unprecedented influx of potatoes, and loading into box cars is going on from the Norfolk Southern docks, freight depot and every available siding. Many of the men are working 16 to 20 hours a day, while the office force of the Norfolk Southern is frequently on the job until three or four o'clock in the morning. The peak of the local crop will be reached this week, and shipments will gradually decline until the season comes to a virtual close about July 1st. Before the present week, shipments from Pasquotank county were light, due to unfavorable weather conditions which caused the crop to be later than usual, but this week every farmer in this county seems to be determined to place his potatoes upon the market. From 60 to 65 carloads a day is the present average, while from June 1st to 15th a total of 431 carloads were billed from Elizabeth City over the Norfolk Southern.

Following the refusal of the dock workers of the Norfolk Southern to work on Memorial Day, the railroad officials discharged the whole crew, which then numbered 35 men. Negroes brought from Norfolk supplied a new force, which remained on duty until last Monday, when they were sent back to Norfolk, and the old force re-employed almost without exception. Practically everybody on duty at the local freight station is now working day and night, and the scene of ceaseless hustle presented there is one not readily to be forgotten.

Potato buyers here from the cities of the North are unanimous in their condemnation of the poor grading of the local crop. They declare that, except for the abnormal demand, potatoes from this section would bring far lower prices alone. They state that the farmers of this section are making a great mistake in permitting such a condition to continue, and that sooner or later they will be heavy losers by it. Meanwhile, with potatoes bringing as high as \$14 per barrel wholesale in the big Northern and Western distributing centers, potato raisers seem little inclined to lose sleep over possible future losses due to poor grading.

### \$50 PRIZES FOR BEST DECORATED AUTOMOBILES

The Tidewater Automobile Association of Virginia and North Carolina, and the Southern Motorist, the official organ of the A. A. A., will each contribute \$25 to Elizabeth City Fourth of July celebration.

The \$50 will be paid the owners of the best decorated automobile or truck, subject to only two conditions viz: The owner of the machine must belong to the Tidewater Automobile Association, and the machine must carry the emblem of the A. A. A., second, there must be at least twenty five cars in the parade.

W. A. Merchant, the Special Representative of the Tidewater Automobile Association is at present organizing Elizabeth City and vicinity for the A. A. A. with most encouraging prospects.

### LEFT THE ARMY BUT GETS PROMOTION JUST THE SAME

Tho he left the army three months ago and is now in the U. S. Public Health Service in New York City, former Lieut. Dr. J. L. McCabe has been promoted to the rank of Captain in the U. S. Army. Dr. McCabe is at a loss to understand why army promotions continue to pursue him since he got his discharge, but probably attributes it, to the lax methods of the war department. Dr. McCabe is a son of J. T. McCabe, of this city.